

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With  
Natural History and Conservation*

**The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club**

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President

Michael Murphy

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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# Welcome New Members

## Ottawa Area

Johanne Brousseau  
Lucia De Marinis  
Chris Earland  
Barbara Evans & family  
Patricia Garstang  
Deborah Gorham & Toby Gelfand  
Ken Gullins  
Isha Haniff  
Ann Holloman  
Jan Murray  
Simm Patry  
Sharon Pigott & family  
Ann Rocchi  
Wendy Trethewey  
Monique Zaloum & family  
Bonnie Ziegler

## Other Areas

Dan Strickland   Dwight ON

Dave Smythe  
Chair, Membership Committee  
July, 2004

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# Conservation Matters

*Frank Pope*

This is the second article in a new series of reports on conservation matters. Christine Hanrahan began the series with a comprehensive report in the last issue of *T&L*. This article updates that report.

## **5309 Bank Street**

As Christine outlined, 5309 Bank is part of an area formerly known as the South Gloucester Conservation Area. The city sold this particular parcel to R. W. Tomlinson who operates a number of limestone quarries. Subsequently, Mr. Tomlinson requested a zoning change to allow quarrying on the property. To discuss the zoning change in the Ottawa area, a provincial/municipal public meeting was held at the Fred Barrett Arena and a private meeting with Mr. Tomlinson was arranged. The Conservation Committee was represented at both meetings. Nevertheless progress towards using this land to quarry limestone is continuing. The Chair of the Conservation Committee, Stan Rosenbaum, has written a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources supporting the Greenspace Alliance letter objecting to the destruction of a significant natural area.

## **Alfred Bog**

The Chair of the Alfred Bog Committee, Frank Pope, welcomed those attending the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee. He explained that the Committee represented all stakeholders of the bog and that the aim of the meeting was to reach a consensus on activities that support the objective of preserving Alfred Bog as a natural area, working with all parties affected and within existing rules. Pope acknowledged that some people thought the committee should be more militant because existing rules have not been effective in protecting the bog. Susan Grigg described the procedure followed by Ontario Parks to produce a Management Plan for the area now under Ontario Parks' jurisdiction (about 3/4 of the bog). She was asked to have an Interim Management Plan ready for the next meeting. The Alfred Bog Committee has already produced a Management Plan which should be helpful. The bog is becoming a tourist attraction and the board walk has proven to be so popular that a second one is desirable. Since extending the existing board walk would simply traverse the same kind of habitat, a second site was identified. Approval by Ontario Parks will be required before fund raising for the new board walk can commence. The Committee confirmed the policy of discouraging tours into the bog except for guided tours by experienced, physically fit people. At the end of the meeting the Vankleek Hill Naturalists presented the Nature Conservancy with a cheque for \$1,700. Since the outstanding debt for the latest purchase in the bog has been paid, the money will be used for maintenance of the bog and toward any further purchase.



### **Urban Natural Areas Environmental Evaluation Study (UNAEES)**

This study will contribute to the underpinning of the urban part of the Greenspace Master Plan which, in turn, supports the new Official Plan. Our last report described a proposal to mount the database being produced by the UNAEES study group onto a website available to the public in order to encourage public input and the enhancement of the database with local knowledge. Negotiations are underway to locate this database on the website operated by the Ottawa Forest and Greenspace Advisory Committee. Information about the sites is on the OFNC website: [http://www.ofnc.ca/conservation/UNAs/UNAEES\\_site\\_summary.html](http://www.ofnc.ca/conservation/UNAs/UNAEES_site_summary.html).

### **Leitrim Wetland**

The City has reported that an engineer from Tartan Homes (developers of the Findlay Creek subdivision) has announced that the planned berm, constructed to protect the wetland, may not work without mitigation measures such as grouting the fractured bedrock. This comes as no surprise because it was our position from the beginning that neither the berm nor the mitigation measures will be successful. It is safe for the developer to admit this now that development is underway and the city has accepted responsibility for the berm over the next 10 years. Tartan Homes has purchased land on the other side of Bank street and may wish to relocate the stormwater pond there.

### **Provincial Planning Reform Legislation Review**

At the time of this writing, the Conservation Committee is preparing a brief for the review of the Planning Act, the Provincial Policy Statement and the Ontario Municipal Board. The Chair, Stan Rosenbaum, presented our views at a workshop in Ottawa in July, and our written brief is about to be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The main points in our brief are:

- governments need to be more proactive in protecting natural areas;
- we support the Ministry proposal that land use planning decisions be "consistent with" rather than "have regard to" the Provincial Policy Statement;
- the language should be clarified to reduce loopholes;
- penalties should be stiffened when natural areas are damaged or destroyed illegally;
- the province should address conflicting legislation regarding natural areas;
- the Ontario Municipal Board should be retained because it is a useful check on municipalities which violate environmental rules and is less expensive than the courts;
- environmental assessments should be conducted by neutral, qualified consultants, local where possible, and appointed by a central authority such as the Ministry of Environment.

### **Bill Royds**

Bill has resigned from the Conservation Committee for health reasons. He is sorely missed. Bill's knowledge, dedication and hard work have made a significant contribution to conservation activity.

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# The 2004 Soirée, and the OFNC Awards for 2003

*Karen McLachlan Hamilton*

There were plenty of activities at the Club's annual Soirée. The evening began with a nice glass of wine (and a few light snacks), some delightful conversation, a gallery full of paintings and photography to peruse, and some fascinating displays by MaCoun Field Club Members and other OFNC members. This year we had the added treat of "Ask a Birder" where all your birding questions would be answered.

Janet Castle evaluated each MaCoun Club member's soirée project and gave us her impression of all the projects. She began by remarking that all the participants were first time presenters—something not obvious to me when I chatted with them. Madeline Levac's interest in and strong conviction towards endangered animals was evident in her presentation. Gabriel Levac's study on Baiji was equally fascinating. Did you know that there are less than 20 of these mammals in the Janzi River? The work done by Anneka and Kyle Burghout on rocks and minerals was thoroughly enjoyable and provided very useful information for rock hounds in the area. Another brother and sister team, Margaret and Andy Zhu, looked at clouds and cloud formation. This team also included a live demonstration. All participants were very knowledgeable about their subject and their enthusiasm was evident in each presentation.

The more formal portion of the evening began with Club President Michael Murphy's warm welcome and the presentation of the year's awards.

This year, there were five awards given by the Club for service to the Club, the community and to science. Citations were read by Irwin Brodo and Frank Pope, with Michael having the honour of making the presentations to the awardees. The citations, abbreviated here, will be published in full in the Canadian Field-Naturalist.

Daniel ("Dan") Strickland was made an Honourary Member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, not only for his renowned studies on Gray Jays, but also for his major role in fostering an appreciation and enjoyment of natural history. Dan has studied Gray Jay behaviour in Algonquin Park for over three decades, looking into the dynamics of the Gray Jay family unit, its nesting behaviour, winter survival and food gathering strategies.

Under his leadership as Chief Naturalist, Algonquin Park's nature interpretation program became renowned continent-wide. The Park's nature walks, public wolf howls, and natural history slide presentations, as well as self-guided nature trails are part of Dan's legacy. He initiated dozens of natural history publications, most especially, the lively and informative newsletter *The Raven*, for which he prepared more than 300 articles on a wide variety of natural history subjects. Dan's impact on a whole generation of young park naturalists is another one of his legacies, many who have moved on to new parks or to new fields of endeavour.

The OFNC Member of the Year for 2003 was Pearl Peterkin. Pearl is person who sports the friendly face behind the sales table at the monthly meetings. In this job, Pearl not only attend all monthly meetings, but she is responsible for collecting the various sales items and coordinate its transport to and from the meetings. She makes herself aware of new items and ensures all regular items are in good supply.

A member for 15 years, she has been involved with many other tasks from volunteering at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden to Chair of Education and Publicity. During her three years as Chair, Pearl rejuvenated the committee, rounded up new members, and found judges for the annual science fair and volunteers for various Club events or various other activities.

In her spare time, Pearl is a long time member of the Rideau Trail Association and volunteers for Bird Studies Canada's loon survey.

Colin Bowen was given the George McGee Service Award. Colin, an active member of the Birds Committee for 13 years, has put in countless hours keeping the OFNC's many bird-related materials coherent and accessible. He formed the backbone of a team that worked for almost three years to consolidate and properly archive over 30 years worth of bird records and publications. He continues to maintain the archives.

Colin also receives all rare bird reports and prepares and redistributes them to committee members for review. He tracks all debates and decisions at meetings and prepares the sub-committee's minutes and reports. On top of all that, he set up and maintains the extensive cross-referenced bird records database and photo collection.

Colin also brings Ottawa bird resources to the Internet and therefore to a broader community. Visitors can see the online tabular seasonal Ottawa bird checklist, the beautifully tabulated Christmas Bird Count results or the often-consulted Ottawa birding site guide, complete with maps.

The recipient of the 2003 Conservation Award (Members), Daniel Brunton, is an



individual well known to members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club through his active role in Club affairs for over 20 years. His name is familiar to many residents of the Ottawa region because he is frequently consulted and quoted as an expert naturalist and conservationist by the Ottawa media. The Conservation Award, however, has to do with his role in establishing the RiverKEEPER project for the Ottawa River.

The problems associated with keeping track of the activities that impact the well-being of the Ottawa River demanded a new approach at coordination. Dan Brunton, together with some like-minded conservationists, tackled the problem and recommended that they work with the United States-based "RiverKEEPER Alliance." In the spring of 2001, a new Canadian chapter of RiverKEEPER was established with Dan as President. Dan secured a three-year Trillium grant to fund the project. The project is now fully active with a full-time ombudsman to look after the river.

Friends of the Jock River (FJR) received the Conservation Award (Non-Member) for their interest, hard work, and dedication to protecting, restoring and enhancing the Jock River and its watershed. Brian Finch, Eric Snyder and Neil Barrington accepted the award for the group.

This non-profit organization has worked with local landowners, government agencies, business and recreational users on projects aimed at restoring the river's ecosystem. Some of the projects include planting native trees and shrubs in hopes to return the river's shoreline back to a more natural state, and collecting data for the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's stream corridor riparian vegetation survey (see *T&L* volume 38(2) for more information on this project). They have also been monitoring the ecology of the Richmond Conservation Area, advocating for sound sewage treatment in Munster, producing quarterly newsletters, and maintaining an informative website.

The formal portion concluded with the results of the art/photography contest followed by the Bird Trivia game, the brainchild of Peter Manga, a former Macoun Club member.

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# A Naturalist's Message

*Jonas Weselake-George*

(Editor's Note: This article, written by the Senior Macoun Club President, was originally presented at the 2004 soirée. His message was so impressive that it was thought it should be shared with those who were unable to attend.)

First, I think I should speak of the people who make the Macoun experience possible: I would like to express our gratitude to our leaders (especially Rob Lee who is close to the heart of the Macoun Club). They do not get as much recognition as they should. For them it is a labour of love. They put a lot of work into Macoun and bring an enormous amount to it. I would also like to thank everyone in this room, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, for its continued work and the support it has given the Macoun Club. I would like to thank the Canadian Museum of Nature and its staff who have been extremely co-operative and done much more than could be expected to support the Club's projects over the past year. I would also like to mention that the Club really benefits from the help of the presenters and people who run our workshops (eg. Martha Campfield), and also from the people who let the us have use of their land (Mary Stuart and Gerry Lee), and all of the past leaders and members. Without most of these people, the Club would be much less, and without some, I doubt it would even exist.

If you think back to the 1830s, the golden era of the naturalist, when you could literally walk out into the field with a club and a net and come back with a dozen or so new species. Most of the natural sciences didn't exist as they do now. With a couple of exceptions such as astronomy, the natural sciences fell under one banner, that of the Naturalist. Specific science education was still largely informal. During this time, the founders of the modern natural sciences were generally referred to in such a way as, a naturalist with an interest in geology, or a naturalist with an interest in fish, or, in some strange cases, a naturalist with an interest in classifying small objects growing on rocks. It was the genesis of the sciences built almost solely from a simple interest in the natural world.

So the question arises "why did I just (somewhat incoherently) attempt to define the Field-Naturalist, to a room filled with naturalists?" The obvious answer to this question is that I must be working toward some point.

I could easily be starting to make the suggestion that the Naturalist has lost his/her

niche. It could be argued that the Naturalist is an antiquated, outdated, concept that is best left in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. But instead I am going to make the opposite argument.

Big changes have happened in the past (and I'm not only talking about glaciations). I have heard it said that, as recently as 300 years ago, before the old growth was cut and replaced with our modern pseudo-natural second growth forests, there were salmon running up the Ottawa River and even possibly the occasional caribou would stray south from its normal range and into our valley. . .but such large changes have rarely happened as quickly as they are now.

In this time the rise of an introduced species, the earthworm, is quickly wiping out the leaf litter and, with it, an entire ecosystem consisting of many species of mites and fungi and some plants that rely on it. In this time of change, when in such a short period of time as fifty years, we are faced with the possibility of losing over half our deciduous tree species to invasive blights and insects that often cause a higher than 99% lethality rate. In this time, with an overpopulation of the deer wiping out entire generations of most plant species and extirpating many, so far leaving only the spruce clearly untouched even without the threat of climatic shifts, times are changing. Our world is changing rapidly. These are massive changes and there is almost no one who knows that anything is going on. People simply are not there to watch. If we continue to live our isolated lives in the city, protected by our lawns in the suburbs, how can we truly understand or protect what we do not know?

The first of the natural sciences is needed again. In the history of life, however important the specialists become, when there is a crisis, it is the generalists that survive. If we are to be sure of survival, we need the generalists that still call themselves Naturalists.

The importance of the modern naturalist is clear. While we may specialise, we will also always see more than our speciality. Research is essential, but there is a more important role to play in bridging the gap between people and their environment.

Unlike with normal environmental education and awareness techniques, you come to know what you live; living in the field and learning from it is a completely different reality.

One day something relaxed inside. . . and I saw things in a new way again. I have learned that seeing and observing is an art and if understood, it is not necessary to ever be bored, except from exhaustion. Learning to look for questions and detail in the complexity of life and trying to watch for answers is one of our greatest challenges.

Out on a beaver pond, in the fall and winter at dusk, it is often as if you can hear the earth itself breath as the wind moves across the ponds and through the trees. This is also a different way of understanding what we are looking at.

In the small bits of new growth, or in the fast movement of a spider working its web, in the small detailed and complicated waves that grace the ponds, when one is out on the land, in these moments that are often less than a second in length but that are played out again and again in an intricate path, you can see thousands of years in half an hour. Time is different out there. Only then, do I begin to realise how quickly these changes are happening.

So what does the Macoun Club actually offer?

- We access the experience of the community.
- We have our own library to which we proudly add our own yearly publication in which we are encouraged to record some of our research and observations.
- We have regular presentations with speakers from the scientific community, explaining the details of their fields and their research findings.
- We go out on to the land with field trips to our study area and all season camping trips near Pakenham.
- We conduct workshops where we learn things like: how to use forestry techniques to conduct tree measurements, how to draw for scientific papers, how to dissect sanitised owl pellets, and how to identify plant samples under the microscope.

Our subjects range from frozen frogs to archeology, from urban planning to bushy tailed wood rats, from parasitology to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

We want to bring these experiences to as many people as possible, but we can't do it alone. If you have any neighbours or relatives and know any youth or children that show an interest in the natural world, please invite them to join the Macoun Club. Help us bring out our message. I, for one, would like to help bring this love and curiosity about our surroundings and this wonderful life that is called being a naturalist to as many people as possible.

Thank you, for letting me speak to you about this today.



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# OFNC Photography Contest

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is holding a nature photography contest, open to all its members, and commencing September 1, 2004.

The goals of the contest are:

- To encourage exploration and discovery of nature through photography.
- To enhance the OFNC's nature photo library for the purpose of promoting Club objectives.

## OFNC Nature Photography Contest Rules:

### a) Eligibility:

Members of the OFNC or their families are welcome to participate. Professional photographers are not eligible to participate.

### b) Levels of participation:

Junior: 17 years of age or less on September 1, 2004.

Adult: 18 years of age or older on September 1, 2004.

### c) Nature Themes:

1. Vegetation: flowers, trees, grasses, mushrooms, lichens, etc.
2. Insects, spiders and small creatures: butterflies, dragonflies, etc.
3. Amphibians, reptiles and fish: frogs, turtles, salamanders, snakes, etc.
4. Mammals: squirrels, groundhogs, foxes, moose, deer, etc.
5. Birds: herons, sparrows, finches, etc.
6. Scenery: These photos should not include reference to human activity unless this adds to the subject of the scene (i.e., human impact on environment such as an oil slick or lack of sewage treatment).

You may enter as many themes as you like and as often as you like.

### d) Restrictions:

The photograph must be taken within the "area of interest" of the OFNC (i.e. within a 50 km radius of the Peace Tower) and be taken between September 1, 2004 and August 31, 2005.



e) Prizes:

Thirteen prizes in all. One for each category as well as a grand prize winner. Honorable mentions will also be awarded. **All winners in the Junior category** will spend a half day out in the field with one of Ottawa's leading nature photographer Tony Beck. More information on prizes will be available in subsequent issues of *T&L* and on the website, so stay tuned.

f) Eligible formats:

1. black and white, colour or infrared prints submitted by mail in the minimum sized 4x6 format;
2. slides submitted by mail;
3. digital image e-mailed with size no greater than 500Kb or mailed on CD in JPEG format of any size.

g) Submission information:

Each entry must be accompanied by a declaration of the following: name, address and telephone number of the photographer, category entered (adult or junior), the entry theme, date, location and subject of the nature photograph. Entries must be received by September 21, 2005.

Entries can be submitted by regular mail and clearly marked photography contest to:

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club  
Box 35069, Westgate P.O.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1Z 1A2

Or by e-mail to: [sdeschenes@cyberus.ca](mailto:sdeschenes@cyberus.ca).

h) Intended use:

All entries remain the property of the OFNC for its own non-profit use (i.e., speaking engagements, kiosk displays and so on). Where possible, photographers will be credited for their work specifically by name or generically as member of the OFNC.

i) The judges decisions are final.

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# News from the FWG: Summer 2004

*Christine Hanrahan*

Although summer is traditionally thought of as a time to relax, in nature there is no rest! Birds are busy courting, mating, nesting and rearing young. The garden resounds with the frantic calls of adults and the demanding calls of hungry youngsters. Other wildlife, insects, mammals, frogs, are similarly going about the business of rearing the next generation in this most busy of seasons. Summer is also the busiest time for FWG volunteers whose activity rivals in effort, if not in content, that of the birds and other creatures sharing the garden with us.

## **Backyard Garden News**

The Friday Morning Crew continued implementing Jay Ladell's plans for the Backyard Garden (BYG). The rockery is planted, the Heritage Bed is nearly complete, the bird feeder has been moved, a new entrance has been created complete with a rock wall on the north side, and the garden is evolving and changing in a truly exciting fashion. Jay has developed attractive new labels to identify garden plants and visitor comments have been overwhelmingly appreciative. By the time this update is in your hands, the new entrance sign welcoming visitors to the BYG should be in place. Check it out and let us know what you think.

## **Events**

### International Migratory Bird Day

The second Saturday of May is always the day for this annual event which took place May 8 in 2004. Co-sponsored again by the Ottawa Wildlife Festival, it followed on the heels of the "Bird's Eye View of Conservation" workshop held at the Museum of Nature. Over 70 people turned out on a sunny but brisk day for guided birding walks around the FWG capably led by Ken and Tim Allison. Thirty-six species were found, including many warblers. Post-walk, people returned to the centre to mingle, chat and taste test some bird-friendly coffee. The FWG was a revelation for the first time visitors. I bumped into a couple of participants a week or so later, a father with his seriously bird-addicted young son. They'd been there since 8:00 in the morning (it was 1:00 p.m. when I spoke with them) and the youngster, an impressively knowledgeable birder by the way, did not want to leave.



*IMBD bird walk. Photo by David Hobden.*

#### Schoolyard Greening Workshop

On May 23, Anne Coffey of the Canadian Biodiversity Institute held an interesting workshop, for about 20 people, on transforming schoolgrounds into green and healthy places for children. The workshop was co-sponsored by FWG.

#### Health Canada Environment Week Fair

The fair, part of National Environment Week, took place at Tunney's Pasture on June 2. FWG participated again, with Lise Trudel and myself manning the booth. As usual, it was very busy with scores of people stopping by. Birds were certainly the theme du jour. Everyone wanted to know if FWG was a good spot to watch birds ("yes!"), and how to create a bird-friendly garden.

#### FWG Annual Plant Sale

Held under warm, sunny skies, the plant sale was again a great success, bringing in roughly the same amount of money as last year, which gives us the necessary leeway to carry on with various plans. The sale is always a festive occasion helped by the presence of other independent, small nursery operators. Philip Fry, Deirdre Furlong and Margaret Hartshorn all brought a unique selection of plants to sell, which complemented ours. This year Lise Trudel set up a display of her lovely artwork, including framed originals and artcards, showing the garden at different times of the year. Kudos to Jay Ladell for all his work in organizing the sale. It gets better and

better every year. Sandy Garland and Jay also grew many of the plants we sold which requires a big commitment. Thanks guys. And many thanks to the many volunteers who helped out. What a great day!

### **Summer Employee**

Many of you probably had the pleasure of meeting Annie Belair at the FWG in 2003 when she staffed the centre for the summer. Fortunately for us, an HRDC grant allowed us to hire Annie again for the 2004 season. It's no secret that Annie has become an integral part of the FWG operations. She staffs the centre, leads guided walks, keeps an eye on the site with daily walks around the garden, and works on invasive species control (more on this below). She has re-organized the library, and undertaken a myriad of other chores far too many to list. Even better, she comes up with creative but workable suggestions, and brings a fresh approach to ongoing projects. We would, if we could, have her full-time at the FWG.

### **Volunteering at the Garden**

Regular work sessions continued throughout the summer.

- The Friday Morning Crew was busy as always but not only in the BYG. The Bill Holland Trail needs regular mowing (Charlie Clifford), and many other jobs need doing. Possibly the most important person on Friday morning is Marilyn Ward who, amongst her many chores, provides the coffee for that necessary work break.
- On Wednesday evening Jay works with a group of people on the heavier landscaping duties in the BYG. Most recently they installed a sprinkler system for the nursery bed. For a change of pace they have also been doing swallowwort duty, weeding out the plant we love to hate.
- The Sunday morning volunteers usually work in the rest of the garden. This year they have focused a good deal of effort on controlling invasive species, particularly swallowwort, and flowering rush.
- For some years now we've kept the Centre open on Sunday afternoons, June to October, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Many thanks to all the volunteers who do such a great job explaining the FWG to visitors.

### **FWG Library**

One of the tasks we've been wringing our hands over is re-organization of our library. With nothing more than broad categories under which to file books it is inevitable that some things get lost (misfiled). Volunteer Fiona McPherson brought her librarian's skill and gave us some workable suggestions. Based on Fiona's input, Annie and Sandy have devised a classification system that will work.

We've also been reconsidering the books in the library. With limited space and several recent very large, generous donations of books, we've had to acknowledge



that we can't keep everything. Books not pertinent to our areas of interest have been set aside for sale. Check the OFNC website ([www.ofnc.ca](http://www.ofnc.ca)) for details. Money from the book sales will help maintain the FWG.

### Signs

Charlie Clifford continues to make sure our various signs are in good shape. In early summer he repainted the big entrance sign on Prince of Wales Drive, a fiddly, painstaking job which he performed meticulously. He is also looking at



*Charlie Clifford repairing the entrance sign. Photo by C. Hanrahan.*

replacing the directional sign by the parking lot. The present sign, which Charlie repaired last year, has always bugged us because the "North" symbol points south and while it is highly entertaining to watch visitors contorting themselves as they try to sort out the confusion, we really have to "do something."

### Problems

Plant theft is nothing new at the FWG, particularly around the time of the plant sale when potted plants are stolen, but this year it seemed to occur with more frequency. In early May I caught someone digging up a plant from the BYG. When I confronted him he said he was "transplanting" it to his garden. For reasons known only to him, he believed it his right to take whatever he wanted and became angry when I argued with him. Only the threat of calling AAFC Security persuaded him to leave. Most plant thieves are not so brazen and the plants tend to vanish when we're not around. Most recently (late July) several large blue lobelias were dug up from the BYG. If you see anything suspicious while visiting the garden, call AAFC security at 759-1985 or the FWG at 234-6767 with details.



## Animals

### Birds

We had some good news and some bad news with nesting birds. The good news is that the Green Herons nested again for the third year in a row. The bad news is that the American Kestrels abandoned us and I'm not sure why. They hung around for awhile in March and April, checked out the box several times, came back in mid-May, checked it out again and then left. Since then we've had only sporadic sightings. Both European Starlings and House Sparrows attempted nesting in the box, although I'm not sure who won. However, at time of writing (late July) House Sparrows were using the box for roosting.



*Green Heron. Photo by Canute.*

While the Green Herons investigated their old nest site, they finally chose a well-hidden spot north of the previous one. Only two young were found this year, but given the difficulty of seeing anything in the thick tangle where they nested there could well have been more. The adults were seen frequently early in the season but less so as summer wore on. As the herons stalked frogs in the pond, photographers stalked the herons from the shore, sometimes with success. As always, the herons are a huge hit with visitors.

A Red-eyed Vireo nest was unusually too flimsily attached to the branch to survive, and sadly it didn't. Warbling Vireos, however, nested successfully, as did Cedar Waxwings, and our usual assortment of regular FWG breeding birds including at least four pairs of Yellow Warblers and possibly half a dozen pairs of Song Sparrows. Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Kingbirds nested just northeast of the Ash Woods near the Canal.

Although Tree Swallows arrived back more or less on schedule, their numbers soon

appeared to decrease. After the swallows left FWG, I cleaned out the nest boxes to see if there were any clues. I found that out of 30 nest boxes, eight contained 10 dead swallows, four adults and six nearly fledged young including one adult in a box devoid of nest material. Only 10 had successful tree swallow nests. House Sparrow nests occupied three of the boxes, Red Squirrels had used another three, while the rest were unused. For the full report, please see:

<http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/alphabet/birdboxes.php>. One possible explanation is the cold weather through much of the spring and early summer which certainly has a deleterious effect on birds both in terms of temperature and in suppression of insects which they feed on. In general I noticed that breeding activity overall was somewhat quieter than in previous years, despite the good numbers of Yellow Warblers, Song Sparrows and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Speaking of blackbirds. . . last summer I reported on the large numbers gathering in the pond each evening from mid-July on (Hanrahan 2003). This summer the Red-winged blackbirds were congregating at the pond but in far smaller numbers, at least at the time of writing.

### ***Butterflies***

The generally cool weather certainly influenced butterfly numbers as well as that of birds. Nonetheless, we saw a good variety this summer. The Pond, Old Field and the BYG were the best spots for butterfly watching. In addition to the regularly occurring species such as European Skipper, White Admiral, Black Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail, Common Ringlet, and Clouded Skipper, we had some of the less common (at FWG) species: Great Spangled Fritillary, Viceroy, Least Skipper, Hobomok Skipper, Banded Hairstreak, Silver-spotted Skipper and Orange Sulphur were all present.

### ***Reptiles and Amphibians***

For the first time in several years we had turtles back in our pond. First to arrive was a fairly large Painted Turtle, followed some weeks later by a Snapping Turtle. Whether they'll stay or try to find another site is anybody's guess. Tree Frogs continued to be very vocal and visible in nest boxes, behind the BYG brochure dispenser, on milkweed leaves, on tree branches, etc. Wood Frogs, American Toads, and Green Frogs remained fairly common as in previous years.

### ***Plants***

#### ***Black Walnut and Butternut***

Dale Crook prepared a detailed inventory of the Black Walnut and Butternut trees in the garden. Last year he tagged them and this year he tracked nut production. A full report is filed in the FWG centre. While working on the nut trees this summer, Dale came across a large tree in the ravine that we'd always assumed to be one of the

*Juglans*. It took the sharp eyes of Dale and Malcolm Leith to recognize that we have a male Amur Corktree, native to Asia. Dale subsequently found two more in the Arboretum.

### Invasive Species

#### Flowering Rush and European Frogbit

The "Pond Trio" (Sandy Garland, Isabelle Nicol and Diane LePage) waded the depths of the pond many times to haul out Flowering Rush and European Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*). This is a messy job but they have great fun while doing it and find a lot of neat pond creatures at the same time. Unfortunately, the Flowering Rush is a vigorous plant and difficult to eradicate. Last year, Sandy removed just about every single plant from the pond, but this spring they were back as thick as ever. We have since learned that they produce small tubers which break off late in the season and from which new vegetation grows the following spring. However, the trio removed all the plants again this year along with a lot of the small tubers.

#### Buckthorn

Tony Denton continues working on buckthorn removal. He has cleared most of the plants growing in and around the line of red pines on the eastern edge of the property, as well as those in the Ash Woods and elsewhere. Removing or injuring (by girdling) the mature female trees is of primary importance so that fruit production can be stopped. The dead and dying trees are left as perches and cover for birds.

#### Tartarian Honeysuckle

The growth of this invasive species in the garden has been rapid. In the late 1990s less than eight mature shrubs occurred in the Ash Woods; by spring 2004 there were 81, mostly young ones. I did a quick, incomplete count of honeysuckle in the garden and tallied 131 shrubs. This species, widely planted in gardens and around the region, is now considered a serious invasive. Plans call for removal of this plant at FWG over the next few years.

#### Other Invasive Species

Other species considered invasive to a greater or lesser extent in the garden include Garlic Mustard, Canada Thistle, Burdock, Purple Loosestrife and Amur Maple. The Garlic Mustard removal has worked relatively well, thanks to the efforts of volunteers over the last few years. Primarily restricted to the Ash Woods, only a few small populations have been found in other parts of the garden and removed. Purple Loosestrife occurs in small stands, mostly around the Pond and in the Old Field. Loosestrife beetles (*Gallerucella* sp.) were released onto one patch in the Old Field later in the summer but soon disappeared. We will be looking at some form of



control for the other invasives, but since they are considered minor in the context of the garden and compared to swallowwort, they are not yet urgent.

### **Pale Swallowwort**

Also known as Dog-strangling Vine (*Cynanchum rossicum*), has been around the FWG and adjacent areas for some years. If you don't know what this plant looks like check out the FWG website ( <http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/research.php>). Two species grow in this area. Black Swallowwort (*C. nigrum*) is far less common but looks very similar to *rossicum* (Darbyshire 2003). A Swallowwort Binder in the FWG centre has information and photos about both species.

### *Swallowwort Patrol - 2004*

For 2004 we focused our energies on curtailing the spread of seeds by cutting, pulling and mowing flowering and fruiting plants.

Mowing is a quick and easy option to help reduce seed production, although it too is temporary, for once mowing stops, swallowwort regrows. Nonetheless, in 2004 a decision was made to mow large swathes of the garden. This was not undertaken lightly for in addition to swallowwort, mowing removes the profuse vegetation which makes FWG unique. We don't want a manicured site little different from the Arboretum, but we do need to control this aggressive plant.

In addition to mowing, a combination of pulling and cutting was done. Pulling removes the entire stem along with some buds at the stem's base but leaves the root crown. Cutting removes only the flower-heads and seed pods. Both methods stimulate new growth sooner or later. Both have their place. Pulling is extremely difficult when plants are growing up thickly through shrubs or other vegetation. One needs to grasp the plant close to the base and pull hard to get the entire stem, not possible in the above situation. Cutting is arduous but many plants can be cut at once. However, cutting too early in the season results in rapid new growth from below the cut. Cutting when the plants have matured and produced seeds, but before the pods open, appears to be the optimum time. But all of our research is preliminary and exploratory.

Research elsewhere into control methods is ongoing, particularly in New York State. In the meantime, however, volunteers at FWG are looking at how fast swallowwort grows, and how long it takes for plants to regrow flowers and seedpods after cutting or pulling.

### *Test Plots*

Annie Belair and a new volunteer, Colin Freebury, have been performing experiments with swallowwort, setting up plots to test different methods of removal.

### *Seedpod Plucking*

Annie set up two test plots on 14 July and on 28 July. In her proposal she said *"I want to see if those stalks will re-flower and regrow seed pods before the end of the season, and how quickly."* She marked 27 and 20 stems respectively and plucked the seed pods off each one. In the first test plot (14 July) she found that, after several weeks, *"only eight of the stalks still have no pods, but flowers are growing from 1-2 cm long stems that sprouted in the leaf axles."* In the second square (28 July) she noted that after one week there were no new pods but said, *"it is still too early to draw any conclusions from this one."* Pod plucking is easier than pulling and cutting and is an innovative way to curtail seed production.

### *Measuring regrowth*

Thirteen isolated plants (with no seedling visible) were chosen and marked by Annie in the New Woodlot on 21 June. The purpose was to establish how quickly the plants would regrow after pulling. Weekly visits were made and the new growth measured. The results after six weeks show that in 11 locations 21 new stalks grew; after four weeks one plant had flowers; and after six weeks 17 had flowers and two had seed pods. The height of some of the plants, after 5-6 weeks ranged from 32 cm to 105 cm. Annie concluded that *"pulling did delay production."*

### *The "Square" and the "Triangle"*

Colin created two test patches he calls the "Square" and the "Triangle." He and Annie have been removing all swallowwort plants from within these areas. Seven observation points were set up, divided between the two areas. A different set of observations is made at each point. At Point 1 (the control area for the square), for example, *"The aim is to observe how long it takes the plants in the square to produce flowers and seed pods, and when the seed disperse,"* while at Point 4 *"The aim is to observe the effects of periodically cutting plants growing from seed back to the ground."*

A set of observations by both Colin and Annie is kept in the Swallowwort Binder at the centre.

### *"No Swallowwort" Poster*

While chopping away at swallowwort I was often stopped by curious visitors. It soon occurred to me that if I wrote a 'Fact Sheet' about the plant I could hand it out and spend less time talking. Sandy suggested that my "Fact Sheet" become a poster. The additional text, deleted from the poster format, would become an "Information Sheet." In short order we had a "Not Wanted" poster adorned by an eye-catching "No Swallowwort" logo designed by Stephen Darbyshire. The Information Sheet grew into a three pager with photos. You can download both of these items at: <http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher.php>.



The FWG Management Committee sent the poster and information sheet to local listservs and community papers to raise awareness and several newspapers ran short articles.

#### Acknowledgments

As always, grateful thanks to the many volunteers without whom the garden would be a very different place. Thanks also to Canute and David Hobden for use of their excellent photos.

#### FWG Details and Contact Information

The FWG is located off Prince of Wales Drive on the Central Experimental Farm. For more information please visit the website at: <http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher.php>. There you can sign up for our free quarterly newsletter *What's Up at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden*, available electronically. Brochures about the garden are available from the kiosk in front of the centre or from inside on Friday mornings from spring through fall, Sunday afternoons in the summer, or during the week June through August when we have a summer employee.

- FWG phone number: 613-234-6767
- David Hobden, Chair, FWG Management Committee: [hobdend@achilles.net](mailto:hobdend@achilles.net)
- Jay Ladell, BYG Manager:  
[jay\\_ladell@yahoo.com](mailto:jay_ladell@yahoo.com)
- Sandy Garland: Newsletter; information about the FWG: [sgarland@magma.ca](mailto:sgarland@magma.ca)
- Christine Hanrahan: bird and wildlife observations: [vanessa@magma.ca](mailto:vanessa@magma.ca).

#### References

- Darbyshire, Stephen. 2003. Which one is it? Dog-strangling vine or swallow-wort, *Cynanchum* or *Vincetoxicum*, this species or that? *T&L* 37(4):157-161.
- Hanrahan, Christine. 2003. News from the Fletcher Wildlife Garden: Spring and Summer 2003. *T&L* 37(4):170-178.

# Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards

The Awards Committee

It is time to think back and consider those OFNC members (and, in one case, even non-members) who, by virtue of their special efforts and talents, are deserving of special recognition.

The Club has six awards: Honorary Membership, Member of the Year Award, George McGee Service Award, Conservation Award for OFNC Members, Conservation Award for Non-Members, and the Anne Hanes Natural History Award. This year, we are adding a seventh award, which was approved last year by the Club: **The Education Award**. At a time when dedicated and effective natural history educators, both professional and amateur, are both under-appreciated and under-funded, the OFNC wants to draw attention to the importance of natural history education in schools and in our community at large. The award is described in its own section below.

An elaboration of each of these categories is presented in this centre-fold, together with space to put the nominee's name and accomplishments. (Additional sheets can be used if needed.) If necessary, the Awards Committee will seek out more information on individuals nominated, but of course, the more information you provide, the easier it is for the committee to make a decision. An informative article on the background of these awards, and a list of recent recipients, was published in Volume 33, Number 4, of *Trail & Landscape*. Last year's awardees are highlighted in the this issue of *T&L*. The deadline for the submission of nominations is December 15th, 2004. Nominate as many individuals as you like, but be sure to give your reasons. Return the nomination form to the Chair of the Awards Committee:

Dr. Irwin Brodo  
28 Benson Street  
Ottawa, ON K2E 5J5

If you have any questions regarding the nominations, feel free to contact Irwin Brodo, Chair of the Awards Committee, at 723-2054, or at [ibrodo@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibrodo@sympatico.ca).

# NOMINATION FORM FOR AWARDS

## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

In the appropriate spaces, please submit the names of those you wish to nominate for OFNC awards and your reasons for each nomination. The more information you provide, the more effective will be the assessment of nominees. Attach additional information if the space is inadequate. Nominations may be made for more than one person. The Awards Committee may contact you for further information regarding any of your nominations.

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**HONORARY MEMBER:** This award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions by a member, or non-member, to Canadian natural history or to the successful operation of the Club. [Usually people awarded an honorary membership have made extensive contributions over many years. At present honorary membership is limited to 25 people.]

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for the nomination \_\_\_\_\_

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**MEMBER OF THE YEAR:** In recognition of the member judged to have contributed the most to the Club in the previous year. [Members of the Executive are excluded from consideration.]

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for the nomination \_\_\_\_\_

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**GEORGE MCGEE SERVICE AWARD:** In recognition of a member or members who has (have) contributed significantly to the smooth running of the Club over several years. [Members of the Executive are excluded from consideration.]

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for the nomination \_\_\_\_\_

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**ANNE HANES NATURAL HISTORY AWARD:** In recognition of a member who, through independent study or investigation, has made a worthwhile contribution to our knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural history of the Ottawa Valley. [The award is designed to recognize work that is done by amateur naturalists.]

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for the nomination \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION AWARD:** For members, non-members or organizations, in recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of natural history education in the Ottawa Region. Potential recipients would include museum personnel (both professional and volunteer), biology teachers, talented and dedicated field trip leaders, authors popularizing local natural history, and other educators of children or adults.

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

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Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for the nomination \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for the nomination \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]



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# Falcon Watch 2004

*Eve Ticknor*

The 2004 season was not without its ups and downs but we ended our Falcon Watch on a note of resounding success. There are now two more female Peregrines in the air!

Although we started the official "Watch" on the June 19, it was at the banding that I had my first real feeling of what we might encounter during the weeks ahead. From the first moment I set foot in the Pinnacle Room of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, I knew that our volunteers would be firmly entrenched on the ground. The roof would definitely be out of bounds. Before our "predator" set foot on the ledge, Horizon was already mounting her attack on us and we were certainly glad of the window panes between us and a very angry falcon. She flew at us, turning just before the glass and, though we couldn't hear her, we knew she was screaming at us to stay away from her babies.

Kudos to Tracy Simpson, our "predator," who had to endure over 30 hits from Horizon, accompanied by Connor. Thanks to her, we were able to band both our chicklets (who were found to be females). Zandar had her photo taken with Hilary Fisher, the lady who named her, while Senator had to make do with me. Michelle Samure, who named our second chicklet, couldn't get away from the Wild Bird Care Centre to attend the event. Both our girls showed themselves to be very feisty—a good sign!

Some of our volunteers, led by Marcel Gahbauer, were able to come out to the CD Howe Building on June 12 for a marathon day of measuring, cutting, tying, assembling, and trying out the flagging system (Ticknor 2001) to hopefully protect that building and our chicklets from meeting. It must have worked as we had no collisions there this year.

June 19—Day 1. Lorraine Montoya, Micheline Bouchard and I had the joy of the first shift of this, our eighth season, Falcon Watch. I must say the cold winds took some of the joy out of this day and, indeed, throughout this Watch. We have never had such a cold season, lasting nearly up to the end. Occasionally we had sun, but we received little warmth from it. We did have rain, not much fun when looking for a chicklet, but more of that later. . .

During the next week we kept watch as our chicklets exercised and ate, giving us the usual heart-stopping moments when one or both were flapping vigorously on the edge of the ledge. How they held on to a shelf of metal flashing is beyond me. It soon became evident that Zanar was a very outgoing falcon while Senator was more reticent. What was so touching to all of us was the strong bond between the sisters, more so than I had ever seen in the past. They sat and slept together. If one was moving along the ledge, soon the other followed. Once they were airborne, they spent more time apart, but sooner or later one would join the other and, chittering and touching beaks, both would settle down together again. This behaviour lasted during the entire Watch, and beyond. Maybe they will migrate and spend the winter together. It is nice thought.

One chicklet took off on the eighth day, mid-morning. Her flight was strong and steady and, of course, we lost her. The call went out for additional volunteers and everyone there spread out to search. Thanks to Nicolas and Colin Conroy, who spotted her on the Jean Edmund Towers (formerly Journal Towers) on Kent St. Those boys saved us much time. Horizon was with her daughter from the moment she left the ledge and sat on the next building to keep watch. Just when the wind picked up and the rain began she decided to fly again, and, as before, we all tried to follow her. We thought we lost her on Laurier St. but James Norminton was able to see her from the windows of a nearby building. More flights, more watching. . . she only quit flying when it grew dark and spent the night on the Queen Elizabeth Towers. We really appreciated our Jim (Sutton) and Jim (O'Neil) team who left the dinner table to help us out.

Meanwhile her sister stayed home and spent a quiet afternoon and evening. Although you should have heard the racket she made when her father stole the meal he brought her only a minute earlier. Her turn for the first flight came the next day and she ended up on the Podium Building on Queen St. I was able to check on her from inside the Marriott and, with the help of my binoculars, finally saw her leg band which told me that this was Senator and Zanar was the one who flew first. With both chicklets being the same size and the markings and colouring being the same, it was impossible to know which one we were dealing with much of the time. One day while keeping watch on one chicklet, I got a call that one of our birds was found on the Justice Building by window washers. Senator had taken off without notice. Thanks to James and the Commissionaire of the building, Frank Drake, we were able to go upon the roof and effect a rescue on a bird who looked at us as if to say, "I'm tired. I want to go home. Take me there, but DON'T touch me!"

Once Senator was home, she stayed there for days until the evening of Canada Day That day she flew again and spent the night on the balcony railing of Judy Craig at 151 Bay St. Then, and at other times, our photographer James was on the scene with

his camera, giving us the opportunity for memories in the future.

Connor was on guard most of the time and we saw some superb action as he tried to keep his home free from avian passersby. We say his send a Great Blue Heron on it's way in more of a hurry than I had thought a heron could fly. Horizon helped as well, chasing a gull up and down Queen St. at lower than lamp post height. Connor, too, had his share of gull chases. I made an extra trip to the Wild Bird Care Centre with a female Merlin on whom he did a swoop behind the Constitution Square Building. Fortunately she was released a few days later, far from Connor. What he didn't chase, in spite of being buzzed, was a family of American Kestrels, living near Christ Church Cathedral on Sparks St.

Aggression wasn't restricted just to other birds. Horizon had her usual hard time with local window washers and outdoor workers who here too high for her liking. This included hitting someone working on the Minto Building, another working on the Marriott, and giving a visitor, Calvin Mollette, scratches and a great scare. Fortunately he has every intention of returning for the next Canada Day.

We found that we had a few welcome changes to our falcon watch routine this year. To the delight of many of our volunteers, the restaurant at the Crowne Plaza Hotel was gone and in its place was a Tim Horton's. We made many a trip across the way for hot beverages—just the thing to keep going during the cold weather. We also were proud to display a poster of Horizon and her chicklet, Summit, on our new sandwich board, thanks to Austin Taverner. We now have a proper place for our new brochures, put together by Susan Goods and translated into French by Micheline Bouchard. With the addition of a donation box, we are now feeling much more professional. Our donations will be used for some much needed equipment such as binoculars, gloves, vests, etc.

An interesting bit of information came to me during this Watch. Horizon has raised 17 chicks, six of which were fostered: 10 males and seven females. Ten chicklets survived while seven have died. Of the survivors, five were males and five were females; of those who died, five were males and two females. Six survivors were hatched here and the other four were fosters. Of those who died, five were hatched here and two were fosters. Now for the really interesting part. If all were raised in the wild, we would have only one true survivor. This is because there would be no fostered chicks in the wild, and more to the point, only one chicklet did not need help from us. Zonar would be our only survivor! And you thought volunteers don't really make a difference.

Throughout the Falcon Watch we had great support from many people, especially the Ottawa Citizen who published my daily reports for all to read, bringing more



visitors to see for themselves. I would like to thank the following:

- Ian Fisher, Yvon Morin and the staff at the Constitution Square for allowing us to base ourselves there and for the monitors which allowed both the public and ourselves to keep an eye on our chicklets;
- Matthew McNaughton and the staff, especially Steve McAuley, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for assisting us both with the banding and returning Senator to her home;
- Pud Hunter and Chris Burns of the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Tracy Simpson and Maria Pezzente of the Canadian Peregrine Foundation;
- Chris McMurray and Alberto Mariaca of the Marriott who assisted us with tracking Senator when she first flew;
- Derek McNaughton and his editorial staff at the Ottawa Citizen for wonderful coverage of our falcons' progress, and Mary Hogan for permission to use the photo of Horizon and Summit, taken by Chris Mikula;
- Nicolas and Colin Conroy for invaluable assistance in spotting Zonar on her first flight;
- Joan Remsu for insuring no one went to the roof of the Queen Elizabeth Towers while Zonar was spending time there;
- Bill McCluskey and Susan Staniforth for inviting us to view the nest ledge from the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of Tower A, Place de Ville;
- Frank Drake for assistance with Senator's rescue from the Justice Building;
- Judy Craig and Sylvie Lafleur for assisting us when Senator chose Judy's balcony to spend the night of Canada Day;
- John Ayres and Eliane Leclerc for the many phone calls to keep us in touch with the whereabouts of our chicklets once they were airborne;
- Arlene Williams for her periodic updates from her vantage point way up in Tower C, Place de Ville;
- Shannon Stone for assistance with organizational items;
- Marcel Gahbauer and Leslie Hunt for giving of their time for the flagging project for the CD Howe Building;
- Hilary Fisher of Brookfield Lepage Johnson Controls and Michelle Samure of the Wild Bird Care Centre for giving our chicklets their names;
- Serge Langevin and Lisa Lejeune for offering to cover the costs of the flagging of the CD Howe Building, to Antonietta Peccia for her wonderful management and insight, and to Louis Thibeault, Guy Duquette, John Hickey, Jean-Charles Roy, Bud Carruthers and his Security Staff for making sure the flagging was installed, and to two members of the Advanced Rescue Techniques School of Canada, Kurt Bohme and Mike Peterson;
- Marie Clausén, our wonderful Volunteer Scheduler, who's continual contact with all the volunteers, along with calling out extras for special occasions, insured we had coverage for each shift;
- James Norminton who soon found himself to be our "official" photographer.



Above all, I wish to thank each and every volunteer who came out for shifts in spite of the cold winds and rain:

Nel Ahmed  
Micheline Beaulieu-Bouchard  
Claudette Bernatchez  
Marian Bird  
Roseanne Bishop  
Valerie Blazeski  
Evelyn Bodin  
Bill Bower  
Ken Buckingham  
Silver Buckler  
Marie Clausén  
    and James Norminton  
Anthony and Gretchen Denton  
Gayle Duggan  
Chris Earland  
Matt Ellis  
Lorraine Elworthy  
Susan Goods  
Christine Grant  
Steven Heiter  
Terry Higgins  
Lesley-Anne Howes  
Ruth Hutchinson  
Ian Jeffrey  
Lene Kollgard  
Bernard LeMay  
Christine Lepine  
Christina Lewis  
    and Bob Bracken

Victor Loewen  
Bonnie Mabee  
Phil Maillard  
Bev McBride  
Helen Michaud  
Stephanie Momborquette  
Lorraine and Jordan Montoya  
Jim O'Neil  
Bill Petrie  
Jude Phillips  
Frank Pope  
Trieste Rathwell  
Nancy Scott  
Daryl, Adam and Ryley Seip  
Heather and River Shaw  
Langis Sirois  
John Sullivan  
Veronique and Simon Sunatori  
Jim Sutton  
Austin Taverner  
Jean-Pierre Thouin  
Chris Traynor  
Josiane Vachon  
Gilles Vautour  
Gabriela Williams  
Laurie Wood  
Nick Zeis

## Reference

Ticknor, Eve. 2001. Falcon Watch 2001. *T&L*, 35(4):183-185.

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# Gull Sighting on Lake Dore

*Manson Fleguel*

On July 4, 2004 at about 3:30 p.m., I was completing my Ontario Lakes Loon Survey (OLLS) on Lake Dore, a 4 km x 8 km lake north of Eganville and south of Pembroke. I was using an 80 mm Bausch and Lomb spotting scope for the job and happened to note a bird unfamiliar to me on the lake (in the past I have observed other rare species here such as a Pomarine Jaeger and an Ivory Gull). This sighting was of a gull species, approximately 0.5 km. away from my site. The sun was shining brightly from behind and to my right. The lake was calm.

The bird was similar to Bonaparte's Gulls which frequent the lake but there was a difference. It appeared to have longer wings, as noted by the high tips of the wings as it sat on the water, it had a dual coloured bill (sort of dark flesh with some red showing) and a dark tip, and the bill appeared heavier than that of a Bonaparte's Gull. The head was partly hooded with dark brown feathers, more so to the top and sides of the head, with a white speckling towards the face and beak. I also observed unusually white areas around the eyes (larger eye ring?) that were clearly different than on any Bonaparte's Gull in this plumage phase.

I observed the bird for approximately three minutes and then ran for my National Geographic field guide to try and identify what I was seeing. The illustration in the book of the first summer Black-headed Gull was almost identical to what I was observing. I called to my son, Scott, who has a passing interest in my passion, to come and take a look. He too observed the brown (not black) partial hood and described it as not extending as far down the back of the head as in a Bonaparte's Gull. He did not note the dual coloured bill, but did mention the longer wings.

As he was looking through the scope, the bird flew and I observed it through my 10x binoculars. The wing pattern was somewhat like a Bonaparte's with the front leading light wedge, but the flight pattern was of a slightly heavier bird (less buoyant than Bonaparte's). It flew more in a straight direction across the lake (Bonaparte's Gulls fly erratically, often changing direction in mid-wing beat). It soon disappeared among the other gulls. I did not observe the dark underwings and red legs illustrated in the guide. Scott and I then took the boat and tried to find the bird again, but without success. Chris Michener and I tried a few days later, also without success.

Was it a new species for our local area checklist? I used the internet to find more

pictures of the bird I had seen and found several that come very close. I am leaning more towards identifying this species as a Black-headed Gull because of 1) the bill colour and size, 2) the hood colour, brown, and 3) the relatively heavier size.

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## Spring Bird Sightings March - June 2004

*Chris Lewis*

The excitement this season began on the Québec side of the Ottawa River with a mega-rarity, the 1<sup>ST</sup> **REGIONAL RECORD** of a **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE**, an unbanded and free-flying bird discovered in the Baie de la Pentecôte at Parc du Plaisance on 17 April. This very accommodating goose (a rarity in spring in Newfoundland) remained here until at least the 28<sup>th</sup>. During the same period, at least 2 male **EURASIAN WIGEONS** were present in Petite Baie Clément west of Masson, and a **GLOSSY IBIS** visited the marshes west of Thurso on 22 April.

On the Ontario side, a female **RUFF** was at the Embrun sewage lagoons from 2 - 3 May. . . but a **PIPING PLOVER** and a singing male **LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH**, were both found on 13 May, and so sent us back to Québec. The plover was present for only one day at the Aylmer Marina, but the warbler remained in Gatineau Park near the Mackenzie King estate until at least the 29<sup>th</sup>. And then there was the **WESTERN SANDPIPER** in the Sabourin Marsh in Hull on 18 May.

It appeared that our neighbours to the north were getting all the "good stuff," but the end of May brought a few special birds to Ottawa as well. **ARCTIC TERNS** flew through the region from 21 - 31 May—the largest group contained 11 birds over the Des Chênes rapids on the 24<sup>th</sup>, seen from Britannia Point. An adult **FORSTER'S TERN** also made a brief stopover at this location (24 - 25 May). But the icing on the cake was yet another mega-bird, much smaller than the goose, but just as rare. . . a male **LAZULI BUNTING** at a feeder in Bells Corners from 29 - 31 May. This was the 1<sup>ST</sup> **RECORD FOR EASTERN ONTARIO**.

It's great to have two provinces in the 50 km radius, with lots of keen eyes and ears on both sides of the river. And, apart from the weird and wonderful rarities, it was also a fine season for many spring species in the Ottawa-Gatineau area.

## **LOONS, GREBES, HERONS, BITTERNS AND IBISES**

The first Ottawa River reports of the **Common Loon** and the **Pied-billed Grebe** came from Shirleys Bay on 12 April. **Great Blue Herons** had already arrived the week before, and a very early **American Bittern** was reported near Corkery on 28 March. **Great Egrets**, rare but nearly annual visitors here, were reported from Scotch Corners and Clarence Creek on 19 April, and another bird dropped in at the Bruce Pit and Mud Lake in Britannia on 16 - 17 June. A surprising number of observations of **Least Bitterns** were reported from late May through the end of June, from various locations including the marsh between the Nortel complex and the Nepean Equestrian Park, Shirleys Bay, the Constance Creek marsh, and the Marais aux Grenouillettes west of Masson. At least one adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen on several occasions in or near the Britannia Conservation Area from mid-May through the end of June. On 22 April a prize catch for a few fortunate birders was a **GLOSSY IBIS** in the marshes west of Thurso.

## **WATERFOWL**

Another spectacular spring for waterfowl! Needless to say, the **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** was the number-one highlight and its extended sojourn in Baie de la Pentecôte provided many opportunities to study and photograph this rare vagrant. **Greater White-fronted Geese**, a rare but expected migrant, were more elusive this season. Single birds were observed at Milton Rd. near Carlsbad Springs on 29 March and also in a field along Barnsdale Rd. on 13 April but they evidently chose not to stick around. **Snow Geese** passed through in small numbers. The largest flock contained approximately 450 birds, mostly of the Greater subspecies, at Cobb's Lake Creek south of Bourget on 13 April. Every year the numbers of **Canada Geese** seem to increase, and this spring was no exception. Uncountable 1000s of Canada's peppered the wetlands and agricultural fields all across the region and nests were seen everywhere as the season advanced, including a least four on the Shirleys Bay causeway. A wave of **Brant** coincided with strong northeast winds in late May, causing a flock of at least 1000 of these handsome far-northern breeders to drop down and congregate on the Ottawa River at the Des Chênes rapids on Victoria Day (24 May). Smaller groups of Brant were seen flying up the river during the next several days.

A pair of **Tundra Swans** were seen near Pendleton from 29 March to 3 April, after the spring break up of ice on the South Nation River. A single Tundra Swan spent several days (20 April - 7 May) at the Embrun sewage lagoons. Could this have been the same bird that lingered at this same location from 26 April - 7 May in 2003? The timing certainly seemed uncanny.

In the duck department, all of our regular migrant and breeding species arrived on



schedule, along with a few bonus birds, i.e., the **EURASIAN WIGEONS** mentioned earlier, as well as pairs of **Redheads** in the flooded fields along Frank Kenny Rd. (30 - 31 March) and in the pond at Earl Armstrong and High Rds. south of the Ottawa International Airport (16 - 18 April). At least one of our overwintering **male Barrow's Goldeneye** was still on the Ottawa River on 28 March. During the "week of the Brant" in late May, the wild weather also briefly brought down small numbers of **White-winged Scoters** and **Red-breasted Mergansers**. As the season progressed, it became obvious once again that **Ruddy Ducks** continue to breed and increase in the region.

## **RAPTORS**

The notable increase in some formerly threatened raptor species continues to be a success story. Nesting pairs of **Ospreys** were observed in many locations, and although **Bald Eagles** have yet to be reported nesting locally, good numbers of migrant birds were noted in early spring. **Golden Eagles**, while still a scarce migrant in eastern Ontario, were reported on an almost weekly basis from early March through early April. One remarkable sighting on 27 March involved *both* species of eagles, as well as some bizarre waterfowl behaviour. An adult **Golden Eagle** flying over Milton Rd. near Carlsbad Springs was being persistently pursued and circled by a tight flock of **Northern Pintails**. After finally breaking free of the "pintail posse," the eagle landed in the nearest White Pine tree—immediately below an already perched adult **Bald Eagle**!

All of our resident accipiters and buteos were not difficult to find this season, with the usual exception of the ever-elusive **Northern Goshawk**. The ratio of our two small falcon species, **American Kestrel** and **Merlin**, continues to shift in favour of the latter species, especially in urban areas. Whereas Kestrels were scarcely observed, Merlins returned to successfully nest again in several neighbourhoods throughout Ottawa. Our downtown **Peregrine Falcon** pair nested again for the seventh consecutive year on the Crowne Plaza Hotel. They hatched two healthy female offspring, both of which made very successful maiden flights in the last days of June.

## **GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, RAILS AND CRANES**

**Wild Turkey** sightings continue to be of interest in the 50 km, and there certainly were some interesting reports this season. One bird appeared in a backyard at Preston and Beech St. (downtown Ottawa) on 19 April, and a gang of four at the Ottawa Duck Club feeders at March Valley and Riddell Rds. provided some entertainment for several days in late March. One male was observed repeatedly leaping up and knocking seed out of the feeders for his companions' dining pleasure.

One of the most prized "special effort" birds in Ottawa is the **Yellow Rail**. Late evening visits to the Richmond Fen on 24 May and 2 June produced up to five singing males of this secretive species. Our more common local rail species returned to their usual marshy habitats by the last week of April.

The first reports of **Sandhill Cranes** were on 9 April from Milton Rd. near their traditional breeding grounds in the Mer Bleue bog. Evidence of successful breeding in the bog for at least one pair was confirmed on 4 June. The single offspring survived and thrived thanks to Walter Hill, the landowner on whose property this pair nested. Mr. Hill must be commended for his efforts to protect the cranes and their habitat. Thanks also to Langis Sirois for gaining the confidence of this landowner and providing the above information.

### **SHOREBIRDS**

The last week of March heralded the return of our expected early species, the good old reliable **Killdeers**, followed closely by **American Woodcocks**. **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** began moving through on their way north in mid- and late April. Our summer resident **Spotted Sandpipers** were well established by mid-May. The beach at the Aylmer marina was oh-so-briefly graced by the presence of a **PIPING PLOVER** on 3 May but it declined to stay, likely due to the heavy human traffic on the beach on this fair weather day. A local breeder that has been declining is the **Upland Sandpiper**. One pair was very vocal and active in the Munster area, but this seems to have become an increasingly scarce species in recent years. A **Hudsonian Godwit** was at the Alfred sewage lagoons on 29 and 30 May.

One of the best sites for shorebird viewing in May was the Embrun sewage lagoons, where the low water levels provided excellent feeding habitat for migrants and the vegetated shorelines were ideal for nesting birds. The numbers of **Least Sandpipers** built up to at least 500 by 15 May, and smaller numbers of other species included **Semipalmated Plover**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Red Knot**, **Dunlin**, **Semipalmated**, **White-rumped** and **Pectoral Sandpiper**. A female **RUFF** was here on the 2- 3 May. Embrun also remained a stronghold for breeding **Wilson's Phalaropes**, with 40 or more adults seen on 21 May.

A **WESTERN SANDPIPER** was found at the Sabourin marsh in Hull, Québec. A flight of **Whimbrels** coincided with the dynamic weather on Victoria Day, with two separate flocks totaling 15 birds seen flying north. The first week of June saw a movement of **Red-necked Phalaropes**. A group of seven were on the Ottawa River at Des Chênes on 1 June, followed by reports of single birds from various locations.

## GULLS & TERNS

During the early part of the season, all of our regular gull species could be seen congregating on the ice of the Ottawa River, along with small numbers of **Glaucous Gulls** and the occasional **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. A total of 11 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were viewed at the Trail Rd. and Carp Rd. landfills in mid-April. Although these dumps are not accessible to birders, gull-watching may still be done from the roadside. By mid-May the **Ring-billed Gull** colonies at Des Chênes and Lemieux Island were not only thriving, they were huge! And the emergence of *Ephemeroptera* (Mayflies) attracted increasing numbers of **Bonaparte's Gulls** from 25 May until early June—an amazing total of 140 “Bony’s” were counted on 30 May as they hawked for insects over the Des Chênes rapids.

Radical weather changes in late May brought an influx of both **Common** and **ARCTIC TERNS**. **Arctic Terns** continue to be a rare but almost annual passage migrant in late spring; in fact, Ottawa remains the only inland location in North America where this species is an annual migrant. Four of these elegant extreme-distance fliers were spotted over the Embrun lagoons on 21 May, and on the 24<sup>th</sup> (that amazing Victoria Day again!). Eleven were seen flying down the river while an even more unusual vagrant, an adult **FORSTER'S TERN**, rode out the storm behind the Britannia water purification plant where it remained until at least the morning of the 25 May.

## OWLS & WOODPECKERS

Congratulations were in order to a pair of **Great Horned Owls** in the Britannia woods. After spending two winters and at least one summer together, they finally nested and produced a single owlet. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> **nesting record for this species in Britannia in 35 years!** The youngster's first attempts at flight landed him/her on the ground, but subsequent observations indicated that its future looked good. The owlet was seen at various heights in trees near the nest site, and both adults were very protective. On one occasion, their combined vigilance cut short a close call with an adult Cooper's Hawk.

**Snowy Owls** remained scarce, as they had been during most of the winter. However, an unusual concentration appeared in the fields near Ste-Rose east of Casselman, where up to seven birds were seen on 7 March, all within a few hundred metres of each other. The **Northern Hawk-Owl** that seemed to have disappeared from the Almonte area, returned after an almost six-week absence and remained into the first week of March. Several pairs of **Barred Owls** were heard calling in Gatineau Park on 17 April, and the Clyde Avenue woods briefly hosted two **Long-eared Owls** and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on 3 April and 28 March respectively.



For the woodpecker files, noteworthy sightings included a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** that evidently overwintered in Embrun and was last reported on 2 March, as well as a pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** that chose to return to an old burn area in Constance Bay for a third consecutive breeding season.

## PASSERINES

Cool temperatures and a relative paucity of biting insects made for a comfortable season for birders, although the strong winds were sometimes frustrating. No significant "fallouts" of migrants occurred, but there were still lots of birds to enjoy in the landscape.

Our expected "early birds" such as **Common Grackles** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** began to arrive in the second week of March. Later in the month, **Eastern Phoebes**, **Eastern Meadowlarks** and large influxes of **American Tree Sparrows** and **Song Sparrows** were noted. An early **Chipping Sparrow** was in Britannia on 31 March, and **Fox Sparrows** began to move through in the first week of April along with our familiar **Eastern Bluebirds**. The first **Rusty Blackbird** of the season was reported from Des Chênes, Québec on 28 March. By the middle of April, **Brown Thrashers** had arrived, and good numbers of both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were moving though. The first **Pine, Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported on 18 April. In mid-May a large movement of **Lapland Longspurs** occurred, with at least 250 reported near the St. Albert sewage lagoons on 16 May—a phenomenal local record for this time of year. By the 26<sup>th</sup>, all six species of swallows, and most of our other breeding songbirds were back on territory.

An increasingly successful urban breeder is the largest of our passerines, the **Common Raven**. The long-time pair in the Carlington quarry raised a grand total of five young this year, and other nests were productive at Russell and Hawthorne Rds. and at the Animal Disease Research Institute (ADRI) on Fallowfield Rd. **Sedge Wren** colonies were reported from a number of locations this season, including Morris Island, Mer Bleue and the Marais aux Grenouillettes. Two species of locally rare breeding birds in the 50 km, the **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and the **Northern Mockingbird**, were reported, but only during migration at the end of April.

Throughout the month of May, a total of 27 species of warblers were found. Specialties included a **Cerulean Warbler** near the Western Lookout in Gatineau Park, and a singing male **LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** also in the park along the Waterfall Trail of the Mackenzie King Estate from 13 - 29 May. This very rare species was previously reported from exactly the same location back in 1982. **Blue-winged** and **Golden-winged Warblers** were both reported as heard from the



railroad tracks east of Huntmar Dr., but these birds are notorious for singing "each other's song." The **Golden-winged** fellows were confirmed by sight. . .but then there was the "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** (BW / GW hybrid) that was seen here on 6 June. . . go figure??!!

Late lingerers included **Bohemian Waxwings** (a few still present in early May after the flocks numbering up to 500 in April had dispersed), **Common Redpolls** (small numbers at feeders until mid-April), a single **Hoary Redpoll** (still at feeders in Cumberland and Shirleys Bay in late March), and a very late flock of **Snow Buntings** (St.-Isidore, 24 April). A flurry of **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** was noted on 2 May and two individual **Red Crossbills** were found in the Larose Forest the same day.

Last but certainly not least, the number-one star of the spring passerine show was a spectacular **male LAZULI BUNTING** at a feeder in Bells Corners. Although he was only present for 3 days (29 - 31 May) many birders from near and far were able to enjoy his limited appearance.

## EVENTS

The eighth annual Taverner Cup birding competition was held on 29 May, with 43 participants from Ontario and Québec. The winning teams recorded 164 and 141 species in the competitive and recreational categories respectively.

The fourth year of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas began with good coverage of Region 24 again, but many of the more remote squares still need more breeding confirmations. Anyone with information about breeding birds, and any volunteers interested in assisting during the final year (2005), may contact our Regional Coordinator, Christine Hanrahan, at [vanessa@magma.ca](mailto:vanessa@magma.ca).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The bird reports mentioned in this article were derived mainly from reports to the Bird Status Line, as well as personal communications with observers. As always, many thanks to everyone who shared observations and called sightings in to the Bird Status Line.

To report local bird sightings as well as hear weekly summaries and rare bird reports for the Ottawa area, please call (613) 860-9000. This information is also posted on the ONTBIRDS listserve and the OFNC web site at [www.ofnc.ca](http://www.ofnc.ca). An excellent directory to great birding sites in the National Capital region and a wealth of other information about local birding and links to other sites can also be found on the OFNC web site.

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# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

For further information,  
call the Club number (722-3050).

*Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.*

**ALL OUTINGS:** *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

**REGISTERED BUS TRIPS:** *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (Payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.*

**EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE:** *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities.*

**BIRD STATUS LINE:** *Phone 860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings use the 860-9000 number and stay on the line. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

**Tuesday**  
**12 October**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social & Club**  
**business**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**RARE BIRDS OF EASTERN ONTARIO**

**Speaker:** Bruce Di Labio

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

**7:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker**

Bruce will be talking about "RARE" birds that have occurred in eastern Ontario over the years. He will speak about his personal experiences with finding and looking for rarities in eastern Ontario; where, when and why he was on the lookout. Questions he will address are: What is a rare Bird? How weather plays an important role in finding rarities. Over 360 species of birds are found in eastern Ontario, but finding a rarity is more than just a possibility. Birds have wings, anything is possible. This will be a slide presentation.

**Saturday**  
**16 October**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**to**  
**Sunday**  
**17 October**  
**3:00 p.m.**

**ANNUAL OTTAWA-GATINEAU FALL BIRD**  
**COUNT**

This event covers the entire Ottawa - Gatineau birding area. You do not have to be an expert birder nor do you have to attend the entire time. A post-compilation dinner is provided for all participants.

See page 139 of previous issue of *Trail & Landscape* for details.

**Sunday**  
**17 October**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**FALL BIRDING IN THE WEST END**

**Leader:** Mark Gawn

**Meet:** At Ottawa Beach, eastern parking lot into Andrew Haydon Park, off Carling Avenue.

On this birding trip we will start at the Ottawa beach and bird our way west of the city. During this outing we will check out the waterfowl that have not moved on yet and any other migrating species that cross our path. Wear appropriate clothing and take a warm drink. Birders of all skill levels are welcome.

**CANCELLED**  
**SEE BELOW**

**Sunday**  
**24 October**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**to**  
**noon**

### **STONY SWAMP**

**Leader:** Isabelle Nicol

**Meet:** The Stony Swamp parking lot at the Conservation Centre just south of West Hunt Club Road on Moodie Drive.

Stony Swamp is wonderful in all seasons. This trip will be a follow-up to the early June walk to once again explore this unique conservation area and learn more about its flora and fauna. This time, however, it will be from the perspective of fall and the changes and preparations plants and animals must make to survive the harsh winter ahead. Join Isabelle to find out more about this interesting area. This should be a good day for the whole family, so bring children, parents and in-laws!

**Sunday**  
**31 October**  
**8:00 a.m.**

### **FALL BIRDING IN THE WEST END**

**Leader:** Mark Gawn

**Meet:** At Ottawa Beach, eastern parking lot into Andrew Haydon Park, off Carling Avenue.

On this birding trip we will start at the Ottawa beach and bird our way west of the city. During this outing we will check out the waterfowl that have not moved on yet and any other migrating species that cross our path. Wear appropriate clothing and take a warm drink. Birders of all skill levels are welcome.

**Saturday**  
**6 November**  
**1:00 p.m.**

### **BEHIND THE SCENES MUSEUM VISIT TO THE EOBM**

**Leader:** Fenja Brodo, Heather Hamilton and staff

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the mall parking lot, junction of Richmond Road and Assaly Road. (Or, meet at the museum at 1:45 p.m.)

The Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum (EOBM) in Kemptville invites you "backstage" to explore the rich collections of birds, mammals, invertebrates and plants housed in this unique museum. We will show you how we are keeping track of local biodiversity. A photographic exhibit of Dragonflies and Damselflies will be on display as well as the Limerick Forest diorama and other exhibits.

**Tuesday**  
**9 November**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social & Club**  
**business**

**7:30 p.m.**  
**Speakers**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**EXPLORING THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN**  
**RIVER BY CANOE**

**Speakers:** Janice Dowling & David McNicoll  
**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

Join Jan and Dave as they travel by canoe nearly 2000 km on the North Saskatchewan River, from its source at the Saskatchewan Glacier to its mouth at Lake Winnipeg. Hear about the river people they meet along the way, and enjoy slides of the flora and fauna including gorgeous panoramas of a seldom-traveled river.

Having canoed over 10 000 km, Jan and Dave bring a serious wealth of experience to life in a canoe.

**Sunday**  
**21 November**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**to**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**(approx.)**

**A VISIT TO THE INVERTEBRATE COLLECTION**  
**OF THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE**

**Leaders:** Jean-Marc Gagnon and Fenja Brodo  
**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road. (Or meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Heritage Building, Canadian Museum of Nature, Pinks Road.)

We are invited on a guided tour of the fabulous Invertebrate Collection at the CMN. Dr. Jean-Marc Gagnon, Collections Manager, will show us the extent and scope of this collection, most of which is preserved in fluids. We will see a range of wondrous forms and learn something of the history of this fine collection and get an insight into the kinds of projects currently underway by Jean-Marc and his associates.

This trip is limited to the first 15 people who register at the Club number (722-3050).



**Sunday**  
**5 December**  
**9:30 a.m.**

### **WINTER BIRD FEEDER TOUR**

**Leader:** Terry Higgins

**Meet:** Fletcher Wildlife Garden, off Prince of Wales Drive just south of the traffic circle.

Would you like to know where to go to see great birds all winter long? Then come along on this tour and discover Ottawa's public bird feeders maintained by members of our Club. We shall visit feeders at the FWG before moving east to Pine Grove, Dewberry Trail and Mer Bleue, all popular places to bird watch during the frozen months.

This trip should appeal to new members and beginning birders, including children, but, of course, all are welcome.

This will be a half day outing. Be sure to dress for standing still in the weather and bring along a hot drink and snack as well as your binoculars.

**Tuesday**  
**14 December**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social & Club**  
**business**

**7:30 p.m**  
**Speaker**

### **OFNC MONTHLY MEETING THE MACOUN MARSH PROJECT**

**Speaker:** Michael Leveillé

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

What kind of biodiversity can exist in a wetland near the centre of urban Ottawa? Grade 6 students at the Educarium, an independent bilingual school on St. Laurent Boulevard, are exploring this question. The site of this search is across the street from the school in Beechwood Cemetery. Under the direction of their science teacher, Michael Léveillé, they began a taxonomic inventory of species (in April 2003) and have identified over 600, a mere fraction of the 5,000 or more species probably living in this interesting marsh. Over 500 of these species are now photographed— from foraminifera to rails.

The Macoun Marsh has now become a local community project, and is the site for a TV film series.

Find out about this amazing biodiversity so close to Parliament Hill.

**Sunday  
19 December**

**OTTAWA - GATINEAU CHRISTMAS BIRD  
COUNT**

Come and join this annual event that encompasses both sides of the river. People of all skill levels are welcome and it promises to be a lot of fun.

Please contact Terry Higgins (737-9488) who is coordinating the Count for the Ontario side of the Ottawa Region or Daniel St-Hilaire (776-0860) if you wish to bird on the Québec side.

**Sunday  
2 January**

**24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DUNROBIN-BRECKENRIDGE  
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

Contact coordinator Bruce Di Labio at 839-4395 or at [bruce.dilabio@sympatico.ca](mailto:bruce.dilabio@sympatico.ca) if you are interested in participating.

This is another opportunity to participate in a Christmas bird count if you were unable to attend the previous one or wish to attend both.

**Tuesday  
11 January  
7:00 p.m.  
Review of Minutes  
  
7:30 p.m.  
Meeting**

**126<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

At this meeting the Council for 2005 will be elected and a brief review of the 2004 activities and a statement of the Club's finances will be given. All members are encouraged to come because it will be an opportunity to meet most of the Club's executive and Chairs.

Following the formal portion, there will be a "Tribute to Mary Stuart" on behalf of the Macoun Club, presented by Rob Lee, Chair of Macoun Club.

Thursday  
19 May  
to  
Sunday  
22 May  
2005

### POINTE PELEE NATIONAL PARK

The Club's bi-annual trip to Pointe Pelee and Rondeau Parks will take place during the spring bird migration. The bus (washroom equipped) will leave Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre early Thursday, arriving at the hotel in Leamington about 4:00 p.m. We leave Leamington early on Sunday and expect to be in Ottawa about 4:00 p.m. Accommodation for three nights, will be at the Comfort Inn in Leamington. We are recommending participants share rooms to minimize cost (two persons per room). The package cost, taxes included, will be approximately \$370 per person, based on double occupancy; slightly less if three or four individuals share; or about \$650 per person for single occupancy.

To assist the organizers, we are asking members who are contemplating this trip to make their reservation intentions known to us as soon as possible (phone Marilyn at the Club number 722-3050).

A deposit of \$50 will be required to secure your reservation (due before 15 March 2005) and the balance, in full, by 10 April.

Complete details will be in the next issue of *T&L*.

**DEADLINE:** *Material intended for the January - March issue must be in the editor's hands by November 1, 2004. Mail your manuscripts to:*

Karen McLachlan Hamilton, 2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON, K2J 4S7  
H: (613) 838-4943 email: [hamilton@storm.ca](mailto:hamilton@storm.ca).

### ANY ARTICLES FOR TRAIL & LANDSCAPE?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Write up your thoughts and send them to Trail & Landscape. We accept email, diskettes and CDs, or submissions in traditional form- typed, written, printed or painted!

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WEBMASTER's email  
[webmaster@ofnc.ca](mailto:webmaster@ofnc.ca)

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